

Referring to the country west of the reservation, I desire to state that I made particular inquiry of all persons whom I met who were familiar with the territory embraced in the contemplated extension of reservation as to the amount of water and grass it contained and its desirability as a range for the Indian herds, and I was informed by S. S. Preston, Indian trader at Willowsprings; James Black and E. M. Tackett, prospectors; Ashton Nebeker and Joseph Tanner, of Tuba City, and others, all of whom are familiar with the character of the country and its resources, that grass is very scarce throughout the territory referred to, except in the western portion, where water is scarce, in consequence of which a large tract of good grass land can not be utilized for summer grazing, but affords good winter range when snow is on the ground, and all of them believed that from the nature of the soil water could be secured for use of stock by a system of storage reservoirs at comparatively small expense.

In this connection I submit that, water being very scarce throughout the western portion of the Navajo and Moqui reservations and the country bordering upon same, in consequence of which there are a number of good grazing sections that can not be utilized for want of water, and as it is generally believed that reservoirs to retain flood waters sufficient to meet requirements could be constructed at a moderate cost on the ranges, I would respectfully suggest that Inspector Graves be directed to examine the sections of the country referred to with a view to the establishment of a number of small storage reservoirs, as from his experience and knowledge of such work he would be able to judge whether or not such system would be practical and meet the requirements of the Navajoes for watering their herds, which, if supplied, would enable them to utilize the grass of extensive arid tracts of good grazing lands that are at present unused, except in winter when sufficient snow is on the ground to substitute water.

Regarding the lines upon which the Navajo Indian Reservation should be extended, I have the honor to state that while the line recommended by Acting Agent Constant Williams, under date of May 7, 1898, would be desirable and in the interests of the Indians, I at the same time know that it would be very objectionable to the citizens of Coconino County, and having discussed the matter with the leading citizens of said county and obtained their consent to accept the Little Colorado River as the southern boundary line of the proposed extension (see Exhibit No. 22, transmitted herewith), I would respectfully recommend an extension of the reservation on a line due west from the southwest corner of the Moqui Reservation to the Little Colorado River, thence down the Little Colorado to the eastern boundary line of the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve, thence north on the boundary of the said forest reserve to its northeast corner, thence west along the north boundary of said forest reserve to the Colorado River, thence up the Colorado River to the Navajo Indian Reservation.

This would add to the Navajo Reservation a tract of country of about 40 by 50 miles, 1,280,000 acres, making the Little Colorado River the southern boundary, which river is considerable of a stream and would give a natural and well-defined boundary, which could be easily recognized by the whites; and, as I am informed, the Little Colorado River was formerly the dividing line between the Navajoes and Apaches, and which was thus strictly adhered to and respected by both tribes, the Navajos could therefore be brought to recognize and accept said stream along the extended portion of the reservation as their boundary line, over which they should not graze their herds.

In conclusion I desire to add that I have taken great pains to inform myself regarding the proposed extension of the Navajo Reservation, as herein set forth, which I trust will enable the Department to act understandingly in the premises.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES McLAUGHLIN,
United States Indian Inspector.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Phoenix, June 17, 1899.

SIR: I am informed by the citizens of northern Arizona that an effort is being made to extend the limits of the Navajo Indian Reservation west to the eastern boundary of the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve. While I have no official information on the subject, the people of that section seem very much disturbed over the matter. I presume it is the purpose to extend the reservation by executive order, if an extension is made at all, and I understand that a petition has been forwarded, asking that the western limit be fixed at the Little Colorado River, as being better for all con-